

TITLE: Personalized Trading Cards

Application No. 10/688,738

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Interview Summary:

Date of interview: 8/2/2004

Attendees: Derris Banks (PTO), Dolores Collins (PTO), Scotty Strahan, Kathryn Strahan

I first agreed with Ms. Collins recommendation to change the patent title to a more descriptive one. I asked if they thought "Personalized Trading Cards" was appropriate. Mr. Banks indicated that our new choice was fine.

I said that the surface of Grunwald's cards was not for directly applying art work, and was instead a coated plastic or wax finish that not amenable to direct editing with pencil or crayons. Mr. Banks said that one could however write on them with permanent marker. I agreed, but pointed out that he was patenting the method of card creation for a regular playing deck in which all the backs were the same, instead of customizing each card. I said that I was improving on this patent.

Mr. Banks also pointed us to Adam's et al. in which the players write specific questions as part of the "Truth or Dare" game.

I said we were patenting the game not the method of art application to the cards, and Mr. Banks said that to try to patent a method would change the nature of our patent. I agreed that I was not trying to patent the method, but to describe the type of card, i.e., one with a specific matte finish for drawing or coloring, for use in my personalized trading card game.

I then asked about Ms. Collins' statement in her preliminary action that Grunwald applied to Sakamoto "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the cards of Sakamoto... to be personalize their cards..." I contented that Grunwald specifically provided against individual personalization of each card (lines 37-44 column 2), and that Sakamoto had specific rules and characters, where as my patent was for creating a personalized trading card game of ones own invention with all rules, characters, writing, etc. of one's own creation.

Mr. Banks' agreed that the prior work did not patent personalized trading cards. He said that he did not agree with Ms. Collins' findings regarding claim 1 (page 3 of Ms. Collins

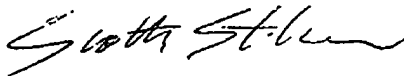
office action summary quoted above), but would need to see our revised claim to make a new action. He recommended we revise our claims and resubmit, but not to add any new subject matter.

I asked if restricting our claims to trading cards would be sufficient for approval, and he again stated he would need to see our revised claims.

Based on this feedback, I submitted a revised statement of claims and comparisons with prior work.

I want to thank Mr. Banks and Ms. Collins for their time and feedback.

Sincerely,



Scotty Strahan

CROSSED-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

UNITED STATES Patent Number 6,601,851, Sakamoto et al.
UNITED STATES Patent Number 2,663,418, Grunwald
UNITED STATES Patent Number 4,244,582, Raees et al.
UNITED STATES Patent Number 4,817,528, Baker
UNITED STATES Patent Number 6,045,131, Adams et al.